



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 12867-14 K.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C398268 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 14, 2014, the Honorable Irene Jones, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On October 15, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision. The ALJ affirmed the Agency's denial of EA under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot because Petitioner does not have a pending Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") application.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and the record, and I AFFIRM the ALJ's Initial Decision.

I agree with the ALJ that the Agency properly denied Petitioner an extension of EA under the HAP. Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient, has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, two extreme hardship extensions and the twelve-month EA extension available under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot. Indeed, Petitioner has received a total of thirty-eight months of EA, which is well-beyond the maximum amount of EA benefits permitted under the regulations for a WFNJ/TANF recipient. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(limiting EA to a lifetime limit of twelve months, plus two six-month extreme hardship extensions) and -6.9(a)1(allowing only up to an additional twelve months of EA under the HHE pilot). Moreover, Petitioner is ineligible for the HAP because she does not have a pending SSI application. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)1i(requireing

pending SSI application and MED-1 form for HAP eligibility).

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision and Agency action are AFFIRMED.

OCT 27 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director